(b) if so, the names of the Central universities alongwith the rates and dates from which the interim relief has been granted; and

(c) whether the Central Government also propose to reimburse to the State Governments, 80 per cent of excess expenditure incurred as a result of grant of interim relief as has been done in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The employees of the nine Universities functioning under Acts of Parliament, namely, Aligarh Muslim University, Delhi University, Hyderabad University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, North-Eastern Hill University, Banaras Hindu University, Visva-Bharati, Pondicherry University and the Indira Gandhi National Open University, are governed by the same rates of allowances as are applicable to corresponding Central Government employees. The two instalments of interim relief sanctioned by the Central Government at the rates ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 per month with effect from 1st June, 1983, and at the rate of 10 per cent of basic pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 per month with effect from 1st March, 1985 have been sanctioned to the employees of these Universities at the same rates and from the same dates.

(c) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

Committee to modernise Railways

186. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee on "technology for the Railways" is being appointed to suggest ways and means for the modernisation of the railway system in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) No, Sir. Railways have a standing committee for technology and research called Central Board of Railway Research. The Department of Railways are not contemplating setting up of any other committee on "technology for the Railways".

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of Metre Gauge Lines into Broad Gauge Lines

187. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of metre gauge to broad gauge conversion projects of Railways which are under progressive stage in different railway zones;

(b) what is the progress of Manmad-Purli and Adilabad Prabhani metre gauge to broad gauge conversion project in South Central Railway; and

(c) what is the progress in creation of new division at Nanded on South Central Railway?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) 17 Gauge Conversion Projects are in progress at different stages. Out of these six projects have already been commissioned, but residual works are in progress.

(b) The work has been taken in hand only in Manmad-Aurangabad Section as Phase-I of the project. The cumulative progress on this section upto February, 1986 is 33.76 per cent.

(c) No physical progress has been made so far as only a token provision of Rs. 1000 was made during 1985-86.